

Appl. No. 09/735,215
Amdd. dated September 22, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 22, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A cryptographic system in a computer system, comprising:
at least one server; and
at least one secret value including a master key, the master key being split into two or more parts wherein fewer than all the parts are required for reassembling the master key, the parts being encrypted by a password-derived or token-based key, each part being associated with a password wherein the at least one server can update the master key by requiring only some of the passwords to be revealed.
2. (Original) A cryptographic system as in claim 1, wherein the master key is used for protecting sensitive information processed by the at least one server.
3. (Original) A cryptographic system as in claim 1 further comprising a database, wherein the sensitive information is stored in the database.
4. (Original) A cryptographic system as in claim 1 in which the master key is split into the two or more parts according to the Bloom-Shamir methodology.
5. (Currently amended) A method used in a cryptographic system including a server, comprising:
providing at least one secret value including a master key;
splitting the master key into two or more parts wherein fewer than all the parts are required for reassembling the master key; and
encrypting the parts by a password-derived or token-based key, each part being associated with a password, wherein the master key can be reassembled by the server by requiring only some of the passwords to be revealed.

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6. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 5, wherein the master key is used for protecting sensitive information processed by a ~~the~~ server in the cryptographic system.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 5 wherein the master key is split into the two or more parts according to the Bloom-Shamir methodology.

8. (New) A server, comprising:

a storage area for storing a at least one secret value including a master key, the master key being split into two or more parts wherein fewer than all the parts are required for reassembling the master key, the parts being encrypted by a password-derived or token-based key, each part being associated with a password; and

means for updating the master key by requiring only some of the passwords to be revealed.

9. (New) A server as defined in claim 8, further comprising an input coupled to the means for updating the master key, the input receiving some of the passwords.

10. (New) A server as defined in claim 9, wherein some of the passwords are received from a plurality of clients coupled to the server.